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respectively. Several of these embody data that have not hitherto been displayed in this form. There are maps showing results of elections, agricultural products, internal improvements, railroads, population, public domain, distribution of industries, etc. The emphasis upon economic history and the concreteness of its presentation mark the new era upon which the writing of our history has entered.

This set will be serviceable, not only as a college text, but as a work of reference for public and high-school libraries.

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An Elementary French Grammar. By E. W. OLMSTED. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1915. Pp. xii+338.

The forty-three lessons contained in this book present an unusually complete résumé of the leading facts of French grammar needed by beginners. The rules are for the most part clearly and crisply set forth, as a reader may easily verify by turning to the treatment of adjective position in Lesson XVII, of interrogative pronouns in XXIX, of *ce* v. *il* in XXVIII, of prepositions in XXXVI, of the subjunctive in XXXIX. Furthermore, teachers will be pleased to find that the author succeeds quite unobtrusively in acquainting the beginner with numerous niceties of grammar and idiom usually untouched in such a treatise, and, since most students do no formal grammar after their introductory book, this fact has its importance.

The book is provided with much phonetic apparatus,¹ with grammatical questionnaires for use in direct-method classes, and, in about half the lessons, with really interesting exercise material bearing on France and French life. In the chapter on pronunciation are to be noted the presence of the usual comparisons between French and English sounds, with no more than the usual success, and the absence of a simple description of the formation of French sounds from the standpoint of practical phonetics. To get this the teacher would almost sacrifice the useful and thorough treatment of the individual letters on pp. 5-10. The questionnaires furnish an excellent basis for review, but will the direct-method enthusiast put into the hands of his pupils a textbook written in English?

¹ The author's adoption of Passy's pronunciation as given in the *International Dictionary* leads him in his vocabulary to transcribe an open *e* in the penultimate of words like *espérer*, *répéter*, and in the initial of *sérieux*, *féroce*, *Pléiade*; to transcribe *fosse* with an open *o*, and *alone* with a close *o*; to pronounce *Montaigne* like *montagne* (cf. Stapfer, quoted in Nyrop's *Manuel phonétique*, p. 154), and *mars* with the same vowel as *âme*. There are a few misprints in the transcriptions: *aurai* with open *e* (p. 15), omission of nasal symbol on *montrer* (p. 243) and on *distinct* (p. 258), close vowel in *je* (p. 268). The transcription for *malière* is missing.

It would probably have been better from the classroom standpoint if Professor Olmsted had divided a good many of the lessons into two. In Lesson V, for example, the student is to learn seven uses of the article, the names of the seasons, and the days of the week, and the present indicative negative and negative interrogative of *être*; in XII and XIII he is confronted by the formidable rules for gender and by long lists of masculines and feminines; and XVI has a vocabulary of twenty-nine words, a list of sixteen adjectives in two forms, five rules for adjective agreement, the conditional form of five verbs, and a rule for tense-usage. This is obviously too much material to set before the student at once, and there is nothing in the nature of the subjects which makes it necessary to crowd them into a single chapter.

The teacher of beginning French classes who anxiously examines each new grammar, hoping to find his many difficulties lightened, will be grateful to Professor Olmsted for providing him with an interesting and unusually complete textbook. He may find other strictures to add to the above—for example, that the volume contains no clear summary of the principles of tense-usage—but he will welcome the book as a serious effort by a competent teacher to set forth the leading facts of French grammar in accord with the trend of recent pedagogy.

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Chemical Calculations. By R. HARMAN ASHLEY. New York: D. Van Nostrand Co., 1915. Pp. v+384. 12mo, cloth. \$2.50.

The subject-matter of this book is divided into ten chapters whose headings are as follows: "Ratios," "Approximate Numbers," "Interpolation," "Heat," "Specific Gravity," "Gas Calculations," "Calculation of Atomic Weights and Formulas," "Gavimetric Analysis," "Volumetric Analysis," and "Use of Specific Gravity Tables and Acid Calculations."

Besides giving a goodly number of problems and their answers under each of the foregoing topics, the author has endeavored to present in the initial pages of each chapter the principles underlying the solution of the problems that follow. Concrete illustrations, showing how these principles are to be applied, are also given in this connection. Much space is devoted to the subjects of "ratios" and "factors." The author regards the time-honored way of writing proportions as unfortunate, and attempts to wean the student from its use. Again, considerable effort is spent in developing general formulas which may later be used as stencils, as it were, for the solution of problems of a certain type. So, for instance, in connection with Dalton's law of partial pressures about four pages are devoted to the development of such a general formula which is to be used in the solution of problems that follow. Any teacher of experience knows that this is not the way to teach the subject to a student, for, in the first place, this long-drawn-out general development, by means of algebraic